

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /087 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, XA

SUBJECT: OAU RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT THE UPCOMING MEETING OF OAU
FOREIGN MINISTERS FEBRUARY 28 IN LOME THAT THE QUESTION
OF EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL BE
RAISED. THE BRITISH HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEY HAVE
INSTRUCTED THEIR AMBASSADORS IN ALL OAU CAPITALS TO LOBBY
WITH THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL. THE
BRITISH BELIEVE AND WE AGREE THAT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD COMPLICATE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND
ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR CIVIL WAR ONCE A RHODESIAN
SETTLEMENT IS REACHED. HAVING INVITED SITHOLE AND MUZO-
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REWA TO GENEVA AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FRONT LINE
PRESIDENTS, THE BRITISH CANNOT EXCLUDE THEM NOW.

2. THE BRITISH HAVE NOT ASKED THAT WE LOBBY ACTIVELY IN
FAVOR OF THE UK POSITION, BUT HAVE ASKED THAT WE GIVE
OUR SUPPORT TO THEIR APPROACH SHOULD WE BE ASKED. IF YOUR
HOST GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR US VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE, YOU MAY

DRAW ON TALKING POINTS GIVEN BELOW.

3. TALKING POINTS:

(A) THE US RECOGNIZES THAT THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IS A MATTER FOR DECISION BY THE OAU.

(B) WE ARE, HOWEVER, COMMITTED TO A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WHICH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED. IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL, THE POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA WILL BECOME MUCH MORE LIKELY.

(C) THE US CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSALS THEY HAVE ADVANCED AND DISCUSSED WITH ALL PARTIES, CONTINUE TO OFFER -- DESPITE SMITH'S JAN. 24 STATEMENT -- A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH NEED THE SUPPORT OF ALL CONCERNED, SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

(D) THE US HOPES THAT NO JUDGMENTS WILL BE MADE BY AFRICAN STATES WHICH WILL COMPLICATE A SETTLEMENT AND MAKE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL OUTCOME MORE REMOTE. WE REALIZE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FROM ALL PARTIES IF A SETTLEMENT IS TO BE REACHED.
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